

Autumn 2021: Events Programme

	Where	Event	Meeting point	Time
September				
Sat 18 th Sun 19 th	Brimstage Hall Orchard	Hedge laying weekend	Brimstage Hall Brimstage Road CH63 6JA	9:30am
October				
Sun 10 th	New Ferry Butterfly Park	Scything the calcareous grassland & turf removal	At park, adjacent to Bebington Station car park	9:30am
Sun 17 th	Thornton Wood	Coppicing and coppice nurturing & removal of pendulous sedge.	Bridge over M53 on Thornton Common Rd	9:30am
Sat 30 th Sun 31 st	Eastham Country Park	Sweet Chestnut coppicing weekend	Warren Lane CH62 3QQ north of Port Sunlight RUFC	9:30am
November				
Sat 6 th	Willaston/Hooton	Beginners hedge laying	contact Paul for details at jpl@liv.ac.uk	9.30am
Thurs 11 th	John Masefield, New Ferry	Group meal & meeting	Meal Meeting	6:30pm 7:30pm
Sun 14 th	New Ferry Butterfly Park	Scything acid grasslands to benefit small copper butterflies	At park, adjacent to Bebington station car park	9:30am
Sat 27 th	Willaston /Hooton	Gapping up a hedge by planting	contact Paul for details	9:30am
December				
Sat 4 th Sun 5 th	Pulford, Cheshire/ Welsh border	Hedge laying weekend & lunch and refreshments provided	contact Paul for details	9:30am
Sat 11 th	Bebington	Pot luck Christmas Buffet	Bebington please book with Paul on jpl@liv.ac.uk	7:30pm
Sun 12 th	New Ferry Butterfly Park	Completion of scything regime hedge laying & trimming	At Park, adjacent to Bebington Station car park)	9:30am

**Please bring: your enthusiasm, your friends, stout footwear, work gloves, waterproofs, hand
santiser & lunch. *Want to know more...?* Visit Wirral Countryside Volunteers' website
(www.wcv.today) or Facebook page
e: Lindseys@gmx.co.uk Phone: Lindsey 07872 953653 Steve 01928 725265**

ALL EVENTS SUBJECT TO COVID CANCELLATION

All Welcome

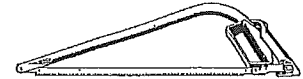
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No experience Necessary



Billhook & Bowsaw

Newsletter of Wirral Countryside Volunteers



Forthcoming Events Autumn 2021

Hedge laying season begins apace and quite early at Brimstage Hall Orchard with a hedge laying weekend and demonstrate event on the Sunday. This event is part of a bigger event on the Sunday promoting the orchard so do take time out of the hedge laying to appreciate the apple related activities. The weekend will be good for those volunteers taking part in the Guinness record-breaking hedge laying event the week after in Hampshire. A chance for a bit of practice and get your eye in.

During October at New Ferry Butterfly we will cut the aromatic calcareous meadow full of wiry but fragrant marjoram. This meadow is packed full of flowers during the summer. We will undertake some turf removal over the ballast area creating some more bare area for the bird's-foot trefoil which benefits the common blue butterfly and the colourful day-flying burnet moth. A drainage ditch is to be dug to collect water for the brick pit and alder buckthorn planted in the ditch to provide more habitat for the brimstone butterfly. Hedge laying will be started on the upper levels to keep our hedges in good order.

At Thornton Wood we will carry out some hazel coppicing where the stools are large enough to coppice and will remove pendulous sedge which due to hybridisation has gained hybrid vigour and turned from a native component in balance with its environment to an invasive in the wood which will out-compete other flora such as the marsh marigold which forms such a yellow mass of flowers in spring.

At Eastham Country Park we return to coppice sweet chestnut from under the pylons. The sweet chestnut makes durable stakes and there is a good display of bluebells in the following spring, a real sea of blue.

There is an ideal beginners' hedge for laying near Folly Field, Hooton/Willaston area. There are 10 lengths of hedge to lay. Parking is awkward at the site so you can drop off your tools and park at David Nind's house at Benty Heath and he will drop you off back or park at Hooton Station and walk. For non-hedge layers there is a bit of tree removal work in

the corner of the field to allow some more light to the hedge, and some ground work preparation for planting up gaps in the hedge a month later.

There will be a meeting at the John Masefield and hopefully we should get back into the normal routine of group meetings which have been disrupted for the last two years.

During the November task at New Ferry Butterfly park the acid grassland will be cut to create an open mosaic habitat much appreciated by insects, especially the small copper butterfly. Some areas of the coal can be re-exposed and sheep's sorrel planted in the coal to aid the small copper butterfly which is just about holding on at the park.

As part of national tree-planting week we will be planting up/gapping up 90 metres of hedge in Willaston for friend of the group, David Nind. It will be a hawthorn hedge supplemented with crab apple and alder buckthorn in the wetter parts. We will plant a wild pear tree raised from Willaston stock to mark the Willaston-Hooton township boundary which cuts across this field.

We have an expedition to Pulford to lay a hawthorn hedge with our host Peter Hynes who has been out with the group before. It is a thin tall scraggly hedge which has been shaded. The shade has been removed so the hedge would benefit from laying and some planting up. Our host will supply the hedge stakes and refreshments for the group. It is a lovely venue, with plenty of parking.

There is the return of Pot Luck Christmas party at Paul's. Bring along a contribution to share. The following day we will complete the butterfly park mowing regime and trim and lay some of the hedges.

There will be a two-day Christmas task at the Common opening up the ponds, laying the Eastern hedge and transplanting hawthorns into the enclosure hedge. A further one or two oaks will be pollarded to allow light to the woodland ride and pond.

Paul Loughnane BEM
Hon. Secretary,
Wirral Countryside Volunteers
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